



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **DEQ-CID arrests Texas man for alleged filing of false public records**

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested a Texas man on one count of filing false public records.

Karam Shamsuddin Ali, 45, of Port Arthur, Texas, is alleged to have filed false public records with DEQ in violation of La. R.S. 14:133, a felony.

DEQ issued Jasani's International, Inc., d/b/a Sunshine Grocery No. 2, an Expedited Penalty Agreement alleging the facility had failed to install overfill protection equipment on the three underground storage tanks (UST) and failed to operate and maintain anti-rust protection systems on the USTs. Ali, President of Jasani's International, Inc, signed the Expedited Penalty Agreement on Feb. 17, 2009, and certified, under civil and criminal penalties, that the violation(s) cited in the Expedited Penalty Agreement had been corrected. Jasani's International, Inc. also paid a fine of \$1,550.00.

A subsequent inspection of the facility in August 2010, found that the violations had not been corrected and that the facility failed to install the overfill protection equipment and failed to operate and maintain the anti-rust protection systems on the USTs.

The purpose of the Expedited Penalty Agreement is to provide an alternative penalty assessment mechanism that the department may utilize, at its discretion, to expedite penalty assessments in appropriate cases.

“DEQ-CID will continue to aggressively pursue anyone found to knowingly engage in any attempt to evade the laws of the state through fraudulent means such as the filing of false documentation with the department,” said Jeffrey Nolan, DEQ-CID Manager.

If convicted of the crime of filing false public documents, Ali faces possible imprisonment for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5 thousand, or both.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

*An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case and all subjects are presumed innocent. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.*